

## DOGS OF WAR LET LOOSE.

## Diplomatic Relations Between Russia and Japan Broken.

## Japan Calls the Game, Being Worn Out by Russia's Delay and Evasions of a Definite Reply to Her Demands.

Tokio, Feb. 7.—The severance of diplomatic relations between Russia and Japan appears to be only a step towards war, although when the ministers of Russia and Japan withdrew from their respective posts, quick and decisive action is expected. When Minister of Foreign Affairs Komura, on Saturday, notified Baron de Rosen, the Russian minister, of Japan's determination to sever diplomatic relations, he is reported to have declared to him that Japan is tired of Russia's delays, evasions and insincerity, and has decided to take independent action for the conservation of Japan's Oriental interests. During the final negotiations Japan's repeated requests for an answer were treated in a most unsatisfactory manner. Japan waited until convinced that it was useless to wait longer, and has now ended the discussion. Indications are that there will be no formal declaration of war. Japan will publicly define its position and purposes, and the foreign office has prepared a new statement, which will probably be announced to-night. On Monday Japan will unquestionably seize Korea, and although Russia has previously intimated that it would not interfere in view of that country's present attitude developments are eagerly waited.

London, Feb. 8.—The Japanese minister today stated that Japan would tomorrow publish the entire correspondence which led to the breaking off of diplomatic relations with Russia.

The Russian minister has been requested by Japanese government to leave Tokio at once.

## JAPAN SCORES FIRST POINT.

London, Feb. 8.—A special dispatch from Berlin says a strong Japanese fleet of warships, reported to be on the way to Chemulpo, Korea, has seized several Russian trading steamers.

## WAR HAS BEEN DECLARED.

Washington, Feb. 8, 1.25 p. m.—An extra edition of the Star says: War has been declared between Japan and Russia and hostilities are now in progress.

Port Arthur, via St. Petersburg, Feb. 9th.—The first victory has been won by Japan. The Japanese torpedo boat flotilla attacked the Russian fleet during the night and three Russian battleships were badly damaged, while none of the Japanese torpedo boats suffered in the least. Japan has thus scored the first success of the war by a bold and sudden dash and has escaped undamaged.

## LAST NIGHT'S WAR NEWS.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 8.—An advance detachment of Russian cavalry is leaving Mukden for Korea. The telegram from Mukden announcing the departure of the cavalry, adds: "Russia's love of peace has been exhausted by Japan's demands. Troops, therefore, have been concentrated at the Yalu river."

"The Russian troops are in the best of spirits. The Japanese everywhere are hurrying homewards." The Mukden dispatch repeats the rumor that a Japanese squadron is off Wei-Hai We, on the north coast of the Shan Tung peninsula, with the object of intercepting the Russian ships coming from Europe.

## JAPANESE OCCUPY COREA.

London, Feb. 9.—The Chefoo correspondent of the Daily Mail cables that sixty Japanese transports are landing troops at various ports in Korea, from Masampo and Fusan on the south, to Kusan, Mokpho and Chemulpo on the west.

Seoul is to be occupied, and the landing is being covered by the torpedo division. The main body of the Japanese fleet, the correspondent concludes, will sail in the direction of Port Arthur.

## RUSSIA'S ACT OF WAR.

London, Feb. 9.—In a dispatch dated Nagasaki, Saturday, February 6, and which was delayed by the censor, a correspondent of the Daily Telegraph asserts that Russia deliberately precipitated the crisis by secretly dispatching a few days ago from Port Arthur transports loaded with a full division of troops and escorted by a fleet and landing them near the Yalu river, thus occupying Northern Korea.

"Japanese patience became exhausted, and today Japan moved her ships and took unresisted possession of certain merchant vessels, including the Shika and Manchuria," the correspondent continues. Two other Russian vessels were seized and escorted to Sasebo, Japan.

The Daily Telegraph says it supposes the foregoing seizures occurred at Masampo, but that the censor suppressed the location.

## SAILING OF A JAPANESE FLEET.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Secretary Moody has received a cablegram from Lieutenant Commander Marsh, the American naval attaché at Tokio, announcing the departure of a naval division from Japanese waters for Chemulpo, Korea.

## JAPANESE FLEET AT MASAMPHO.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The State department has received a cablegram from the American legation at Seoul to the effect that it is reported that Japanese war ships have arrived off Masampo, but that telegraphic communication has been cut off and it is impossible to confirm the report.

The street hands under the direction of Street Superintendent White have improved the sidewalks on West Hampton avenue.

## TAFT ON THE PHILIPPINES.

## Giving His Views of the Conditions in Our Island Possessions.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Governor Taft, returned from the Philippines to be Secretary of War, is a godsend to Washington correspondents. It isn't every public man who is so accessible. It is not always easy to get a frank expression of opinion from Secretary Hitchcock, Attorney-General Knox, or Postmaster-General Payne; from Senators Lodge, Beveridge or Bailey. Some of them are always in too much hurry and some have a stand-off manner intimidating to an interviewer. The new Secretary is easily accessible, frankly responsive, and his head has not undergone any material enlargement on account of accumulated honors.

I found him at his desk yesterday and had a good talk with him. "They say you are in favor of Independence for the Filipinos," said your correspondent.

"Protection—protection, they are not fit for independence at present," he replied.

He was reminded that anti-imperialists insist that self-government is a natural right, like personal freedom, and that any people, for instance the Kaffirs and Hottentots of South Africa, know their own wants and can govern themselves better than even the wisest nation can govern them.

"Yes, I know," he said, "the anti-imperialists are all at sea about that. The English and Germans can teach the savages that civilization is both profitable and agreeable."

"Then you hold, of course, that Daniel Webster was wrong in opposing the Mexican War, a war of conquest. He was nick named 'the Mexican' for it by those who know that California was a valuable asset, and insisted that we had a right to steal it."

"Yes, Webster was mistaken in some things that he said," rejoined the Secretary. Your persevering correspondent produced some memoranda.

"Fronde's declaration that 'a free country cannot govern subject provinces.' Lincoln's, that 'no man was ever good enough to govern another man without that man's consent,' and sundry morsels from the Declaration of Independence. The Secretary said, 'I cannot enter upon a polemical discussion concerning the proper basis of government and the principles which should control a nation; even if you and I could settle it,' he continued with a laugh, 'I have hardly time to go into it.'"

Your correspondent explained that his reason for bringing up such questions was that Governor Taft had opposed the acquisition of the Philippines in the beginning.

"But now," said the Secretary, "we face the status quo, the prevailing conditions, and it is only with them that I can deal. I have disengaged myself from many merchants, promoters, and editors in the Philippines, who believed that affairs there should be administered primarily for the profit of Americans, and now come home and find myself confronted with the anti-imperialists. Is this fair?"

Your correspondent inquired how far the hostility of these promoters went in opposition to his humane shipboard. "The Philippines for the Filipinos," he answered. "They want to get rich immediately. Some of them insist that, as the archipelago belongs to the Americans, the feelings, ambitions, and wishes of the natives should not be at all regarded or respected. They despise them, and frequently insult and abuse them. Unless their rancor can be allayed, and the hostility of commercial adventurers in the United States diminished, the solution of the problem will be long delayed. The doctrine which we have announced and striven to realize was McKinley's; it involves a high moral principle which this nation is bound to enforce in spite of all obstacles. Every law and every measure must be construed in the light of it. If it will help the Filipinos, it must be adopted and executed; if it tends to the injury of the Filipinos, it must be discarded and defeated, whomsoever else it profits. You have called this a humane policy. It is much more than that. It is a commercially wise policy. We will never get much profit out of those rich dependencies unless we make ourselves the friends of their people and abide by the principles of justice. Avarice without justice will be our ruin, and if we are not just, our administration in those islands will be a failure. But I do not expect this. I expect that, under Governor Luke Wright all schemes for loot will be abandoned and justice will be so firmly established and dispensed that the people will unanimously request our continued protection and prefer our government to their own."

"You ask about sanitary conditions: I am a living testimonial to the healthfulness of the Philippines." With a comprehensive gesture he displayed his three hundred pounds of avoirdupois. "Manila is the healthiest city in all the tropics. An American who respects the laws of hygiene, does not persist in hard labor too many hours in a day, lets hot liquors alone, exercises enough to keep his liver active, and generally takes care of himself, may live there as comfortably as here."

The death rate of Manila has been reduced one-quarter under American occupation. It has not yet a sewerage system, but there are laws for the disposal of garbage which are rigidly enforced, insanitary quarters are burned or otherwise destroyed, the medical methods of civilized nations are being introduced, and we are justified in high expectations of future improvement. Between forty and fifty per cent of all the deaths in the Philippine Islands are of babes under one year old. This results from profound ignorance of obstetrical expedients. The poor people do not know how to manage, and the way infants die and mothers suffer is very pathetic. But I look confidently for constant and rapid betterment."

"No, the Americans in the Philippines are not suffering what can properly be called hard times. But they are active and ambitious and they want to get rich quick and come home. I suppose they make less money than they did when the army there was five times as large as it is now. Some of them are mere adventurers and camp-

followers; some of the worst allow themselves to be supported from the meagre earnings of the native women. Of course such people will always be malcontents and marplots. There is a great chance for enterprising men to make money there without looting the islands or despoiling the natives in any way. What is sorely needed there—needed more than any other thing—is an influx of American capital to develop the vast resources of the archipelago by legitimate means, and of the right sort of American men, honest, courteous, and just, to show by the example of their lives and behaviour how men should live to enjoy free government."

## JAPAN MASTER OF THE SITUATION.

## Russian Fleet so Badly Crippled that it Cannot Cope with Japs.

## Five Russian Warships Disabled and Two Reported Captured.

## Japanese Landing Troops in Corea Practically Unhindered.

Chefoo, Feb. 9.—The steamer Columbia has arrived from Port Arthur with additional news of the attack by the Japanese fleet upon the Russian fleet in the roads outside of the harbor of Port Arthur. The Columbia was in the roads at the time and felt the first shock of a torpedo explosion at 11 o'clock on Monday night. The attack continued all night and at daylight this morning the two Russian battleships and one first class cruiser was seen to have been disabled and beached at the entrance of the harbor. The cruiser was badly listed to one side.

This morning the Russian forts opened fire on the Japanese fleet which was about three miles distant. The Japanese vessels returned the fire, hitting several of the Russian ships, but doing little damage. The Russian cruisers then went out and the Japanese vessels disappeared. They were seen later going in the direction of Dalny, apparently undamaged.

The two battleships disabled are the Poltava and the Czarovich. The disabled armored cruiser Boyarin and the grounded battleships block the entrance to the harbor, preventing gunboats from going out and battleships and cruisers from going in and getting coal.

Besides this Japan has the Russian gunboats Varyg and Korietz caught at Chemulpo. They were bound for Vladivostok.

The Japanese fleet was under the command of Vice Admiral Togo and consisted of six fast cruisers, the Chito, Kasage, Tofago and Yashima, which circled outside, drawing the fire of the Russians. They then joined the main fleet and all went in to attack the armored cruisers. In the Japanese fleet, which consisted of two divisions were the Kikasa, the flagship, the first class battleships Ashi, Fuji, Shikishima, Hatsuse and the dispatch boat Tetsu. The second division of the fleet under command of Admiral Kamimura on the flagship Ijidenmo, consisted of the armored cruisers Yakuma, Iwat and Asama.

When seen by the steamer Foo Chow Tuesday morning, the fast cruisers were circling in a radius of six miles. No torpedo boats were seen and it is probable that they left the vicinity after the torpedo attack of Monday night. The Russian fleet outside of the harbor consisted of the battleships Petropaulovsk, flagship; Pereswet, sub-flagship; Pobieda, Poltava, Czarvitch, Retvizan and Sebastopol, and the cruisers Novik, Boyarin, Bayarn, Diann Palada, Askold and Angara.

The disabled battleships are inside forts Huan Ching Shan and Chi Kwan-Shan. The cruiser is outside, but within range of the forts.

## AN OFFICIAL RUSSIAN REPORT.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 10.—1 a. m.—The following bulletin has just been issued in the form of a telegram from Viceroy Alexieff's chief of staff, dated Feb. 9:

"By order of the viceroy, I beg to report this, that at about 11 o'clock in the morning, a Japanese squadron consisting of about 15 battleships and cruisers approached Port Arthur and opened fire. The enemy was received with a cannonade from the shore battery and the guns of our squadron which also participated in the engagement. At about midday the Japanese squadron ceased its fire and left, proceeding south."

"Our losses in the fleet were two officers wounded, nine men killed, and 41 men wounded. On the shore batteries one man was killed and three wounded. The battleship Poltava and the cruiser Novik each had a hole knocked in her side below the water line. The forts were slightly damaged."

(Signed) "Major Gen. Flug." JAPANESE TROOPS LAND.

Pekin, Feb. 9.—About 1,000 Japanese troops disembarked at Chemulpo, Corea, yesterday, notwithstanding the presence there of two Russian warships.

## ANOTHER RUSSIAN DEFEAT.

Tokio, Feb. 9.—It is reported here that the Japanese fleet engaged and

defeated two Russian warships whose names have not yet been learned at Chemulpo. It is said the engagement began at 11 a. m., and continued until 3 p. m. The smaller Russian vessel is reported to have been sunk and the larger one fired and hopelessly disabled. A part of the crew is reported to have escaped to the shore and to have been captured. The Japanese ships are reported to be slightly damaged. Official confirmation of the report is unobtainable. It was reported yesterday that the Russian cruisers Korietz and Varyg were lying at Chemulpo and it is possible that they were the vessels reported to have been engaged.

## RUSSIAN MAIL STEAMER CAPTURED.

London, Feb. 9.—A dispatch to Reuter's Telegram company from Shanghai says it is credibly reported that the Russian mail steamer Mongolia, which left Shanghai Sunday, has been captured by the Japanese off Shan Tung peninsula.

## MARK HANNA DEAD.

## The Big Boss of Republican Party Succumbs to Typhoid Fever.

## End Came Suddenly and Unexpectedly.

Special by Ware & Leland's Private Wire.

Washington, Feb. 10, 11 a. m.—Senator M. A. Hanna, senior Senator from the State of Ohio died shortly after 10 o'clock this morning. His condition has been regarded as quite serious since yesterday and during the night there was a turn for the worse.

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

## Claims for Damages for Animals Killed by State Veterinarian Rejected.

## Bill to Give Five Thousand Dollars a Year to Aid in Establishing Rural Libraries Passed.

Columbia, Feb. 8.—The House today devoted the greater portion of its time to the rejection of the claims for stock killed by the State veterinarian. The claims in themselves amount to but little, but it is the precedent and principle that is involved.

Much time was spent in the discussion of the bill which sought to give ten dollars' worth of encouragement to the establishment of rural libraries. This money will come from the State treasury and was to be limited to \$5,000 each year.

For a great many years there have been various propositions looking toward the recording of marriages. Today, for the first time, the House passed a bill proposed by Mr. Ford, of Fairfield. It is a very simple and plain bill, and is distinctly a step in the right direction, as there can be no possible connection between a simple recording of marriages without a fee and a tendency toward a divorce law.

Mr. Stackhouse's bill, to guard against the introduction of the boll weevil into this State, was passed with an amendment looking to the exclusion of hay, oats and cotton seed from Texas.

Mr. Haskell secured the passage to a second reading of his bill to amend the law as to homesteads so as to make the statute law the same as the constitutional provision as to homestead exemptions.

No new bills were introduced today, as the House has decided that it will receive no new measures except through committees.

There were 48 bills on the Senate Calendar for a third reading. Of these 35 were of only local concern and were passed. A great majority of them related to schools and the voting of bonds for them.

Among other bills read the third time was the one to require private banking institutions receiving deposits to make quarterly reports; to appropriate \$1,500 to Col. Tribble for compiling Confederate records; to provide punishment for safe crackers; granting the United States jurisdiction over certain lands in Florence for the purpose of erecting a building.

Senator Aldrich, chairman of the committee to consider the report of the commission on the completion of the State House, presented the report. It declares that the work on the State House has been very defective, and it charges various wrong-doings against those who had charge of the work. After some discussion, the report was ordered to be printed in the permanent reports and resolutions.

Under authority of Council the Police Committee has purchased a saddle horse for the use of the Chief in the discharge of his duties.

The fines and penalties collected by the city during the year 1903 amounted to \$1,384.77. In 1902 the receipts from the same source were \$1,095.21.

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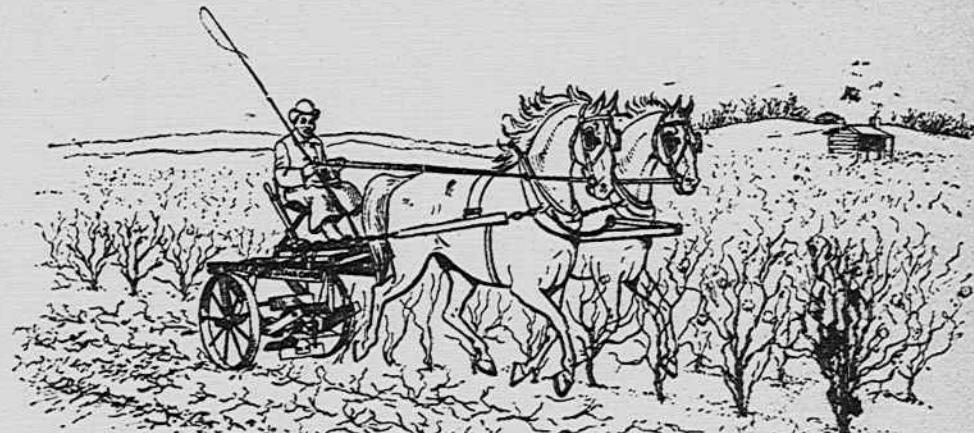
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